

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A topical composition comprising:

5 crape myrtle extract in an amount effective to improve the aesthetic appearance of skin, scalp and/or hair, and a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

10 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract is present in from about 0.0001 to about 15 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

15 3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract is present from about 0.001 wt% to about 10 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

20 4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract is obtained from the leaf cells of *lagerstroemia speciosa*.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is in a product form selected from the group consisting of aerosol, cake, cream, ointment, emulsion, essence, gel, lotion, shampoos,

conditioners, make-up, towelette, mask, paste, patch, pencil, serum, spray and stick.

6. The composition of claim 1, further comprising one or
5 more additional ingredients selected from the group consisting
of anesthetics, anti-allergens, antimicrobials, antifungals,
anti-inflammatories, antiseptics, chelating agents, colorants,
depigmenting agents, emollients, emulsifiers, exfollients,
10 fragrances, humectants, insect repellents, lubricants,
moisturizers, pharmaceutical agents, preservatives, skin
penetration enhancers, skin protectants, stabilizers,
sunscreens, surfactants, thickeners, viscosity modifiers, and
vitamins.

15 7. The composition of claim 1, further comprising one or
more sunscreens.

SUB 47 8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle
extract includes colosic acid.

20 9. The composition of claim 1, further comprising at
least one of vitamin A, vitamin C, and bioflavonoids.

Sub A5] 10. A method of improving the aesthetic appearance of skin, comprising topically applying to the skin:

a composition comprising an effective amount of crape
5 myrtle extract; and

~~a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.~~

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the crape myrtle
10 extract is applied in an amount from about 0.0001 wt% to about 15 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein the crape myrtle
15 extract is applied in an amount from about 0.001 wt% to about 10 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

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13. The method of claim 10, wherein the crape myrtle
extract is applied to the skin at least once daily for a period
of time sufficient to improve the aesthetic appearance of skin.

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14. The method of claim 10, wherein the improvement in
aesthetic appearance is selected from the group consisting of:

a) decreasing skin fragility;

- b) preventing and reversing deterioration of collagen and/or elastin;
- c) preventing skin atrophy;
- d) promoting/accelerating cell turnover;
- 5 e) improving skin firmness/plumpness;
- f) improving skin texture;
- g) decreasing fine lines and/or wrinkles;
- h) improving skin tone;
- i) enhancing skin thickness;
- 10 j) restoring skin luster;
- k) minimizing signs of fatigue; and
- l) reducing skin dryness.

SUB A6 15. A method of preventing and/or ameliorating the effects
15 of extrinsic and/or intrinsic aging on skin comprising topically
applying to the skin a composition comprising an effective
amount of crape myrtle extract and a cosmetically acceptable
~~vehicle.~~

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20 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the effects of skin
aging are selected from the group consisting of:

- a) fragile skin;
- b) sagging skin;
- c) fine lines and/or wrinkles;
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- d) thinning skin;
- e) lack-luster skin;
- f) fatigued skin; and
- g) dry skin.

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SUB A 7 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the skin at least once daily for a period of time sufficient to prevent and/or ameliorate the effects of skin aging.

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15 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the intrinsic aging comprises chronological aging.

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16 19. The method of claim 13, wherein the extrinsic aging comprises photoaging and/or the effects of pollution.

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17 20. The method of claim 13, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the skin in an amount from about 0.0001 wt% to about 15 wt% of the total composition.

18 21. The method of claim 13, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied in an amount from about 0.001 wt% to about 10 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

22. A method of improving the aesthetic appearance of hair comprising applying to hair and/or scalp crape myrtle extract in an amount effective to improve the aesthetic appearance of hair.

5 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the improvement in aesthetic appearance of hair includes at least one of the following:

- a) increasing hair thickness;
- b) increasing rate of hair growth;
- 10 c) improving hair luster and shine;
- d) improving manageability; and
- e) overall hair health.

15 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the hair and/or scalp in a topical composition comprising a vehicle and from about 0.0001 wt% to about 15 wt% of crape myrtle extract.

20 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the hair and/or scalp at least once per day for a period of time sufficient to improve the aesthetic appearance of the hair.

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